

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ERIK C. LEMONS RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Erik C. Lemons, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students, who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Erik is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Cooke County Teen Center. The organization matched Federal funds of \$500 in for the scholarship.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Erik C. Lemons for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT BRADLEY JARED HARPER

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and community of Sergeant Bradley Jared Harper upon the death of this outstanding soldier.

Sergeant Harper was a member of Company A, 4th Amphibious Assault Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Norfolk, Virginia serving his great nation in the country of Iraq. He was a leader in his unit and a loving husband to his wife. Sergeant Harper was an active citizen in his community and did his best to make his country a better place to live.

Sergeant Harper will be remembered for his unsurpassed sacrifice of self while protecting others. His example of strength and fortitude will be remembered by all those who knew him.

While words cannot express our grief during the loss of such a courageous soldier, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Sergeant Bradley Jared Harper.

IN RECOGNITION OF CONGRESSMAN DANNY DAVIS FOR HIS WORK WITH THE SAAM INITIATIVE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Congressman DANNY DAVIS for his leadership in launching the State of the African American Male Initiative (SAAM). This is a much needed initiative to improve the conditions of Black men and boys who continue to be marginalized in communities throughout the U.S. Their condition in this country is currently in a state of emergency and requires governmental, community, and corporate solutions to this crisis.

The SAAM initiative facilitates dialogue between individuals and organizations addressing the issues significantly affecting African Americans males. These issues center around health, education, economic empowerment, criminal justice and civic participation. The initiative will have regional meetings and conferences in New York, NY; Houston, TX; Chicago, IL; Miami, FL; Memphis, TN; Detroit, MI; Atlanta, GA; Los Angeles, CA; and Oakland, CA. In addition it seeks to ensure a national impact through its website and the creation and utilization of partnerships with Members of Congress, grassroots organizations, and individuals throughout the country.

Young Black males in contemporary American society face major challenges to their development and well-being. I applaud the efforts of my colleague in taking an active role in reaching back to other Black men and boys to address the issues most affecting them.

Black males in this country are facing a state of emergency and the social and economic indicators of Black male development provide profiles of individuals whose quality of life is in serious jeopardy. Essentially Black males are becoming an endangered species and more must be done to ensure the survival of future generations.

The SAAM initiative is a good start. It is a positive way for we as lawmakers to take a hands on approach in making our communities better and safer places. As an African American male this initiative is particularly special to me. I know how important it is to have strong Black leaders, fathers, activists, and mentors to guide, develop, and structure the community and its future generations. I think it is incredibly important to equip African American males with the tools they need to affect positive change in world events.

The tireless efforts of Congressman DANNY DAVIS and his staff for organizing this effort

are to be commended. The SAAM initiative is a positive step in moving our country closer to the day when African American males will no longer be the first to drop out of school, last to become employed, first to get arrested, last to get a quality lawyer, first to die, last to see a doctor, first to be homeless, and last to get a house.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, I was unavoidably absent due to a previously scheduled engagement.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 455, on S.J. Res. 19, calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, "yes"; on rollcall No. 454, on H. Res. 360, commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific, "yes".

HONORING THE WILKES-BARRE SALVATION ARMY AND FRANK AND DOROTHY HENRY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Salvation Army in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, as well as Frank and Dorothy Henry who have been associated with the leadership of the Salvation Army for more than four decades.

As we are well aware, the Salvation Army plays a vital role in American society, a fact brought home to us most recently by their work in the flood-ravaged Gulf Coast where, as of Sept. 6, they had distributed more than 100,000 articles of clothing and served over 400,000 meals to flood victims described by one Salvation Army officer as "emotionally devastated."

In Wilkes-Barre, the Salvation Army's work began on Jan. 12, 1885 under the leadership of then Capt. Faith Jeffries. The Salvationists were met with a mixed welcome. After their first day of warfare in Wilkes-Barre, they had rescued 24 souls "from the devil's grasp," according to an account in their newsletter, "The War Cry." However, Capt. Jeffries was arrested for playing the tambourine in the street on Sunday.

During World War II, Salvationists served coffee and doughnuts at USOs around the nation and at Union Station in Washington to

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